LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all previous listings of claims.

1. (Currently amended) A system for delivering a data object to a component in a distributed network, comprising:

a communication network, and

a node coupled to the communication network for communication thereover, the node including a computing device and program code instructions to be executed by the computing device as recited herein, the node further including:

program code for handling the data object as:

a first data type representation, wherein data fields in the data object are mapped into the first data type representation;

a second data type representation; and

~~means~~ further program code for transforming the first data type representation into the second data type representation ; and

wherein each of the first data type representation and the second data type representation include (i) a specification of a data item within a data object of the respective data type representation, and (ii) operations which the data object can perform; and

wherein the specification of the data item is one of (i) a native data type, and (ii) a generic container data type which may represent multiple logical data types and cannot be typed at compile time .

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first data type representation comprises a container data type representation and the second data type representation comprises a native data type representation.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the native data type representation corresponds to the container data type representation.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the native data type representation comprises an incomplete native data type representation.

5. (Currently amended) A system for delivering a data object using multiple data type representations, comprising:

a communication network, and

a node coupled to the communication network for communication thereover, the node including a computing device and program code instructions to be executed by the computing device as recited herein, the node further including:

an interface , coupled to the communication network for receiving the data object and mapping data fields in the data object into a first data type representation, wherein the interface transforms the first data type representation into a second data type representation when the second data type representation is available; and

a component coupled to the interface for receiving the first data type representation when the second data type representation is not available and receiving the second data type representation when the second data type representation is available ; and

wherein each of the first data type representation and the second data type representation include (i) a specification of a data item within a data object of the respective data type representation, and (ii) operations which the data object can perform; and

wherein the specification of the data item is one of (i) a native data type, and (ii) a generic container data type which may represent multiple logical data types and cannot be typed at compile time .

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the interface transmits the first data type representation to the component when the second data type representation is not available and transmits the second data type representation to the component when the second data type representation is available.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the first data type representation comprises a container data type representation and the second data type representation comprises a native data type representation.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the native data type representation corresponds to the container data type representation.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the native data type representation comprises an incomplete native data type representation.

10. (Currently amended) A method , operable with a communication network and a node coupled to the communication network for communication thereover, the method being for receiving a data object at the node from over the communication network , the method comprising:

the node generating a first data type representation and mapping data fields in the data object into the first data type representation;

the node determining if a second data type representation corresponding to the first data type representation is available; and

the node transforming the first data type representation into the second data type representation when the second data type representation is available ;

wherein the node includes a computing device having program code instructions for performing the generating, the determining, and the transforming; and

wherein each of the first data type representation and the second data type representation include (i) a specification of a data item within a data object of the respective data type representation, and (ii) operations which the data object can perform; and

wherein the specification of the data item is one of (i) a native data type, and (ii) a generic container data type which may represent multiple logical data types and cannot be typed at compile time .

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

transmitting the second data type representation to a component.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the transforming of the first data type representation into the second data type representation when the second data type representation is available comprises transforming the first data type representation into the second data type representation when the second data type representation is available and a component elects to receive the second data type representation.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting the second data type representation to a component when the second data type representation is available and the component elects to receive the second data type representation.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

transmitting the first data type representation to a component when the second data type representation is not available.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining if the first data type representation can be transformed into an incomplete second data type representation when the second data type representation is not available.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

transforming the first data type representation into the incomplete second data type representation when the first data type representation can be transformed into the incomplete second data type representation.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

transmitting the incomplete second data type representation to a component.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

transmitting the first data type representation and the incomplete second data type representation to a component.